

# Airport Safety Inspections Increase

This aerial view shows Humboldt County's Shelter Cove Airport in Whitethorn, California.

## Aviation Safety Inspections

Type	2008–09	2009–10	2010–11	2011–12	2012–13	2013–14	Average
Airport (AP)	190	166	164	170	203	182	178.6
Heliport (HP)	109	86	90	90	114	127	97.8
Total AP and HP	299	252	254	260	317	309	276.4
FAA form 5010	163	136	147	152	172	155	154

Source: Division of Aeronautics

Aviation is an important part of California's transportation system and economy. Caltrans' goal in aviation is to foster and promote a safe, efficient, dependable, and environmentally-compatible air transportation system.

One of our roles in achieving that goal is to conduct annual permit compliance and safety inspections of the state's 245 public-use airports and 160 hospital heliports. California's 245 airports play an important role in emergency response because these airports are potential staging areas in major catastrophic events such as floods or earthquakes, as well as providing aerial support for fire-suppression activities. Under a contract with the Federal Aviation Administration, we also inspect and update Airport Master Records (FAA Form 5010) for specified public-use airports. The 5010 Airport Master Record contains aeronautical data published for public use, describing the physical and operational characteristics of civil public-use and private-use airports and military and other federal agency airports in the National Airspace System. Inspections were down in fiscal years 2009–10 through 2011–12 because of staff vacancies and the time required to fully train new aviation safety officers.

In addition to conducting safety inspections, Caltrans makes recommendations regarding safety

and noise at proposed K–12 school, community college, and state building sites within two miles of an airport runway, and we authorize helicopter landing sites at or near schools. We also administer state airport noise regulations and land use planning laws that foster compatible land use around airports. Caltrans integrates our aviation system into broader transportation system planning on a regional, statewide, and national basis, and we provide grants and loans to airports for safety, maintenance, and capital improvement projects.

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## Caltrans Aviation by the Numbers

Public-use airports	245
Hospital heliports	160
State aviation safety officers	6
State-owned aircraft	2
State airport grants awarded for state fiscal year 2012–13	\$1.9 million
Federal aviation grants awarded to California airports for federal fiscal year 2013	\$254.1 million
Total California Aeronautics Account revenue for fiscal year 2012–13	\$5.2 million

Source: Division of Aeronautics Aviation in California Fact Sheet (April 2014).